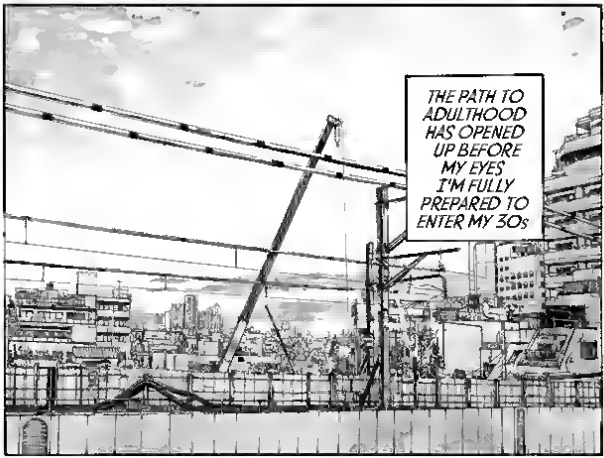
A GENTLE MAN


THE PATH TO ADULTHOOD HAS OPENED UP BEFORE MY EYES
I'M FULLY PREPARED TO ENTER MY 30s

AH... I HAVEN'T CALLED MY CLIENT YET
WAIT, YOU'RE STILL HERE?
YOU CAN CALL HIM ON MONDAY. THAT SHOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE
FINALLY. OF COURSE
YOU SURE ARE DILIGENT
I'VE FALLEN INTO THE HABIT OF CHECKING LISTINGS FOR ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENTS ON MY WORK COMPUTER...
BUT TODAY, SOMETHING UNUSUALLY GOOD HAPPENED...

I WAS EXCITED TO SEE THAT I WON A LOT OF FREE JEWELS IN THE CELL PHONE GAME I'M CURRENTLY ADDICTED TO
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マツザキ
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LOOKS LIKE YOU DID QUITE A BIT OF SHOPPING
PREP FOR THE TYPHOON SEASON?
AH, I FOUND YOU
I JUST FELT LIKE DROPPING BY, IS ALL.
BUT SERIOUSLY, YOU'RE HERE EVERY FRIDAY AT THIS TIME TO GO SHOPPING
IT'S ONLY MARCH,
IT'D BE NICE IF YOU'D LET ME KNOW BEFORE STOP BY, Y'KNOW...
I'LL CARRY SOME OF YOUR BAGS
MM...
NO, IT'S FINE
WAS HE BEING SERIOUS JUST NOW?

AH... YOU MUST'VE FORGOTTEN FROM THE LAST WORK PARTY,
I TOLD YOU MY NAME WAS NORI
HEY, SENPAI
HM?
IT'D BE FINE IF I START CALLING YOU BY YOUR FIRST NAME, RIGHT?
GOT IT, SENPAI,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO EMBARRASSED...
YOU CAN BE MORE DIRECT
I JUST CAME HOME FROM WORK, MY PLACE IS A MESS...
SORRY, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TONIGHT...
THERE ARE BOOKS SCATTERED AROUND MY ROOM
UH, LET'S SEE...
YOU TOLD ME I COULD COME OVER TO YOUR PLACE SOMETIME, RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN CLEANING UP MY OWN MESSES UNTIL NOW
I LIVE BY MYSELF, AFTER ALL,
I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT...
MM,
I CAN HELP YOU CLEAN UP!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WORK TOO HARD...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF,
BUT I'M HAPPY YOU OFFERED TO HELP
BEING BUSY WITH WORK IS IDEAL AT LEAST I CAN FORGET ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE AND FEEL AT EASE
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, ASSHOLE?

SAY

THAT'S RIGHT. A GENTLE GUY LIKE YOU IS TOTALLY MY TYPE...
SOMEONE WHO HAS A DISTANT AURA, BUT DRAWS YOU IN WITH AN INNOCENT SMILE UNTIL YOU EVENTUALLY OPEN YOUR HEART TO HIM. A GUY LIKE THAT!

GUYS WHO SO SHAMELESSLY SAY "OH, NO ONE WOULD EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!", BUT ACT SURPRISED WHEN SOMEONE ASKS TO GO OUT WITH THEM MAKE ME SICK...
WHAT THE HELL? DO YOU TAKE ME FOR AN IDIOT? EVERYONE KNOWS HOW MUCH YOU GET AROUND!

SO, YOU GIVE CONVOLUTED EXCUSES LIKE "IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL WHO CAN LIVE EVEN ON HER OWN."
AND AT ANY RATE YOU'D COME OVER TO MY PLACE EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE YOUNGER AND PRETTIER THAN ME? AHAHAHA!
SURE, EVEN IF YOU'RE REALLY NICE AND EASILY TO GET ALONG WITH, IF YOU'RE LIKE THAT WITH EVERYONE, THEN THAT JUST MAKES YOU A PEOPLE PLEASER. AND AS SOON AS YOU GET WITH A GIRL, YOU DUMP ALL YOUR FEELINGS ONTO HER.
EVERY GUY I'VE BEEN WITH HAS BEEN LIKE THAT!
WITH JUN'ICHI! WITH KOUTA! WITH MICHAEL!
AND EVERY TIME, MY HEART HAS JUST GOTTEN COLDER AND HARDER, LIKE STEEL! AND SO I'D TOLD MYSELF I'D NEVER SEE ANOTHER MAN! BUT, YOU FUCKING LET ME IN WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT. NO, WAIT. I WAS THE ONE WHO LET YOU IN. BUT AT ANY RATE YOU WERE THE ONE ACTING IRRESPONSIBLY!
WHAT? DON'T ASK ME "WHAT?"! YOU COMPLETELY DON'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS! YOU CAN'T PROCESS THE LONELINESS BOILING LIKE LAVA DEEP INSIDE MY OLD STEEL HEART? I SWEAR, I'D RATHER DIE THAN BELONG TO SOME GUY WHO DOTES AFTER ME LIKE A CAT! AH... YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A CUTE FACE RIGHT NOW... AM I CRYING? WILL YOU ALSO GENTLY, GENTLY BETRAY ME WITHOUT HURTING ME? WILL YOU BE LIKE THE OTHER AND RUN AWAY? OR WILL YOU BE THE DUCT TAPE THAT WILL HOLD MY LIFE TOGETHER? OO! I EVEN HAVE DUCT TAPE AT HOME? OKAY, I'LL STOP BY THE 100 YEN SHOP ON THE WAY HOME!!!

SHIT, I REALLY DID IT THIS TIME...
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH AND PAY THE PRICE...

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT STOPPING BY THE 100 YEN SHOP ON THE WAY HOME!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
LET'S GO!!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR HEAD...
BUT YOU WON'T TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING!
YOU SAY NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT,
I'M SORRY. I'M JUST NOT USED TO DOING THAT
PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW ALSO HAVE THEIR GOOD POINTS INCLUDING YOUNG PEOPLE
IT'S NOT GOOD TO BOTTLE IT UP
YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU KNOW...

WELL, FOR NOW, HOW ABOUT I TAKE YOU HOME BEFORE I HAD BACK?
OKAY? NOW CUT IT OUT AND LET ME TAKE ONE OF YOUR BAGS
I'M SORRY. UM... REALLY, IT'S FINE,
OF COURSE, I'M HAPPY YOU'RE BEING SO KIND TO ME...
I'M REALLY THANKFUL, BUT...
OH
IT KIND OF MAKES ME FEEL LONELY,
BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO KIND AND SWEET TO EVERYONE,
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I'M SUCH A BITCH

I'M NOT REALLY THAT KIND...
I JUST REALLY WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND RIGHT NOW...
HEY!
THAT'S REALLY FUCKING CUTE STOP!
GOD...
THIS IS THE BEST...

SHUT UP!
YOU SURE ARE STRONG, SENPAI
GEEZ, THIS IS HEAVY...
BUT...
IT'S BECAUSE I ALWAYS BUY A LITTLE TOO MUCH
SO WE ARE GOING TO HAVE DRINKS AT YOUR PLACE AFTER ALL?

ふんわり鏡月は、
ふんわりなお酒

ひとりの時間を、ふんわり時間に。
きっとできます、お手伝い。
読書に映画、ネイルに妄想。
ほら、いつもより、ふんわり、ね。
ふんわり鏡月

ふんわり鏡月 >